CCIN innovation funding – 2018/9 Policy Labs

Would you like to collaborate with other CCIN Members (Councils, Associates and Affiliates) to find co-operative solutions to the challenges facing local government? Is there a co-operative idea that you would like to run in your local area? If yes, we want to hear from you!

As a CCIN member you can apply for up to £10,000 to deliver a Policy Lab. This could be anything from co-operative approaches to tackling food poverty to initiatives that put communities back at the heart of local decision making. We are open to all ideas, the more innovative the better!

So what do we need from you? If you have an idea, please complete the expression of interest form below, telling us about your idea for a Policy Lab. Don't be shy: we want to hear ideas from ALL our members.

Please return your completed EOI to comms@councils.coop

Expression of Interest – CCIN Funding

CCIN Member Authority: Not Yet Determined

Name of CCIN Lead Member: Perform Green (Affiliate Member)

Name and Job Title: Toby Rhodes, Director, Perform Green Ltd.

1. What is your idea?

Provide details of what your proposed project is, the story of how you identified the need or opportunity for the proposal and how the money will be spent.

As a CCIN affiliate member, Perform Green would like to partner with several (potentially all) CCIN members to undertake a "discovery" project to define if and how a multi-region timebank might help those in need of home-based support, living within co-operative council boundaries, to access assistance with their health and social care needs - when they themselves are not within easy reach of their own family and social networks due to geographic or demographic circumstances. To support this project, we would also invite Made Open (experts in timebanking and a CCIN framework supplier), and (possibly) Age UK to collaborate / participate.

Our approach is similar in principle to the Japanese Fureai Kippu model (see http://dx.doi.org/10.15133/j.ijccr.2012.003 for details), whereby the basic unit of currency is an hour of service to an elderly person and where family members can transfer credits to their parents who live elsewhere. In short, we are keen to explore if this model can be replicated at a national level in the UK – providing the co-operative movement with first mover advantage.

This project will help to map key players and partners across the CCIN membership; identify ways to build 'commutable trust' between different regions and individuals; consider an effective approach to algorithmic skills matching (matching offers of help with requests for help) and help to shape how blockchain / crypto-currency technology can convert time into sharable credits nationwide.

The target population are unlikely to utilise a digital solutions en-mass; therefore, identifying effective engagement solutions is key to the success of any future digitally-led service.

2. Who will you work with?

A key requirement of Policy Lab Funding is that you work in partnership with other CCIN members. We recommend engaging a minimum of **three** other CCIN members (Affiliates and Associates should bid alongside Full Council members) to create a working group to support the development of your project.

We recognise that the Policy Lab funding initiatives need to be led by a CCIN member council, and are seeking the support of CCIN to broker introductions to potential project partners within the network.

In working up this proposition, we have (via an introduction from Nicola Huckerby) approached 4 CCIN member authorities (Glasgow, Bassetlaw, South Tyneside, Southampton). Unfortunately, we have not so far had any positive take-up of our proposition. However, for the trial to work effectively, it would ideally involve several geographically dispersed CCIN councils.

Despite this, we have been encouraged to submit this application for consideration, and would seek to engage with multiple CCIN member councils to participate in this project should it proceed.

Perform Green (www.performgreen.co.uk) use digital solutions to deliver Smart Cities and a Smarter Society. We recognise that individuals in all parts of society need to engage with digital

solutions in order to receive better-connected health and social care; yet often these services are inaccessible to the very people who need these solutions the most. Perform Green in an affiliate member of CCIN.

Made Open (weare.madeopen.co.uk) use design and technology to help communities design better futures. We have developed an online community platform where community members can exchange information, services and resources with each other, offer to help and request help from their neighbours in exchange for credits (aka timebanking). Our platform is supporting a number of social prescribing demonstrator projects. Made Open are a CCIN framework supplier.

3. What are the outcomes you hope to achieve?

What are the outcomes you hope to achieve through this project and how will you know if your outcomes are achieved? What is your measure of success?

The CCIN project funding would help to discover the most effective timebanking model and engagement strategy for stakeholders who are hard to reach by technology solutions. We envisage this could be a discovery project for the whole of the CCIN membership with exploration being undertaken into at least two communities / local authorities. If the model appears viable, we envisage forming a design brief to explore the sustainability of this model in more depth and scale out.

Overall project aims include:

- Using technology to promote neighbourliness.
- A digital space offering new forms of governance and co-ordination to oversee collective behaviour that encourages the growth of social capital.
- Explore concept with at least two communities / local authorities;

Objectives of the discovery process include exploration of:

- "Smart contracts": community members (individuals?) getting discounts from supporting their community. Also includes perhaps loan forgiveness and / or reduced charges in exchange for positive collective action.
- National or global crypto timebank: a global exchange of credits / coins between members of different timebanks (similar in principle to Japanese Fureai Kippu model).

Outcomes from the project could include:

- A definition of if and how a multi-region timebank might help those in need (especially those who are not within easy reach of their own family and social networks due to geographic or demographic circumstances);
- A determination of whether the Japanese Fureai Kippu model can be replicated at a national level in the UK and beyond and what form of currency exchange might work best;
- The identification of ways to build 'commutable trust' between different regions and individuals;
- Development of an effective approach to algorithmic skills matching (matching offers of help with requests for help).

- Building understanding of how blockchain / crypto-currency technology can convert time into shareable credits nationwide / worldwide.
- A map of key players and partners who are interested, can make this happen (e.g. the Co-operative Movement) and can help to build strong foundations;
- Creation of a design brief to explore the sustainability of this model in more depth and scale out (if feasible);

Potential challenges could include:

- Is it possible to set up a customised Distributed Autonomous Organisation (DAO) that is leaderless, inviting, inclusive, forgiving and horizontal operating at national / global scale; where resources are held jointly, are managed democratically for the good of all - and that is unsupervised by the state?
- Like Bitcoins, DAO's may lead to the eventual privatisation of governance not its democratisation
- There is a permanent friction between imperatives for privacy and transparency in blockchain model
- No-one has done anything like it yet though cryptocurrencies sold as route to new global democracy.

4. How does your project support the aims and objectives of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

The Co-operative Councils Innovation Network aims to frame the debate on the future of sustainable solutions to public sector challenges. Our work will ultimately improve outcomes for communities by enabling members to develop radical innovation in policy and practice, sharing best practice and learning, and enabling innovators to chart new territory together. Please provide details of how your project will support this aim.

Most timebanking projects thus far tend (for practical, logistical reasons) to be locality based. One of the key facets of this project is that it extends the timebanking concept beyond a geographical location, and makes specific use of the "network" of collaborating CCIN members, to coordinate and pilot a project on a potentially nationwide scale. This, surely, is at the heart of the purpose of establishing a network of collaborating councils – to enable not just the sharing of ideas and innovations, but to actually work together across geographies to trial an innovation that could bring new, national-scale thinking thinking to the provision of local services.

5. How does your project demonstrate the Values and Principles of the Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network?

Our Network is based on the Co-operative values developed by the International Co-operative Alliance: "self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity… honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others". Further details about the CCIN's Values and Principles is available here. Please provide details of how your project will demonstrate the CCIN's Values and Principles.

Volunteer timebanking projects, by their nature, are closely aligned with the CCIN values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The underlying principle of

providing a service in one's own community, is based on a high-trust, high-collaboration model that is aligned with CCIN principles.

Furthermore, the project would be established on a collaborative basis, between Perform Green, Made Open, participating CCIN authorities and other key stakeholders, so that all gain from and learn from their involvement.

6. How will you share your learning with the Co-operative Councils Innovation Network?

How will you share your learning with other CCIN members? How will you share your learning beyond the project? This could be through producing a report, holding a workshop or presenting at the CCIN's annual showcase event.

We anticipate sharing our learning though:

- Production of a Design Brief for a potential national roll-out following this pilot
- Production of a report detailing the project to be shared with CCIN members, and published to enable others to learn from this pilot
- Presenting the project outcomes at the CCIN's annual showcase event, and potentially to participating authorities too.